

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes due to a personal matter that kept me at home. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

Rollcall vote 460, on H.Res. 350, congratulating Lance Armstrong for winning the 2003 Tour de France, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 461, on H.R. 2309, the J. Stephen Horn Post Office Building Act, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 462, on H.R. 1533, to amend the securities laws to permit church pension plans to be invested in collective trusts, I would have voted "yes."

SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

Rollcall vote 465, on the motion to table the motion to reconsider on H. Res. 351, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 469, on the Petri of Wisconsin amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 470, on the Tancredo of Colorado amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 471, on the Hastings of Florida amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 472, on the Hooley of Oregon amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 473, on the Kennedy of Minnesota amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 474, on the Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 475, on the Cooper of Tennessee amendment to H.R. 2989, I would have voted "no."

SEPTEMBER 5, 2003

Rollcall vote 476, on the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 6, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 477, on the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1308, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 478, on the Tom Davis of Virginia amendment to H.R. 2765, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 479, on the Norton of the District of Columbia amendment to H.R. 2765, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 480, on the Hefley of Colorado amendment to H.R. 2765, I would have voted "yes."

IN MEMORY OF PETER WEISS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of my friend and Jersey Journal political editor and columnist Peter Weiss, who passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, September 6, 2003. In the countless tributes to his life since his passing, Peter Weiss has been

described as the chronicler of the political landscape and people of Hudson County and the State of New Jersey.

In the three decades that I was fortunate enough to know and work with Peter Weiss, he abided by the highest journalistic standards and pursued his stories in Hudson County, New Jersey, with honesty and dedication. From my early start in politics when, as a 20-year-old, I ran for school board and hand-delivered my first press release to him, to the more recent race for House Democratic Caucus Chairman, Peter Weiss always kept a watchful eye on me.

Those of us, who had the privilege to work with Peter Weiss, will miss his boundless energy, wit, and honesty in pursuit of the story behind the story. His sense of humor was of such an infectious nature that even the most serious matters could be discussed in a more relaxed and friendly environment.

He lived and breathed Hudson County politics, understood the machinations of our world, brought to light the backroom dealings, the infighting and competition among New Jersey's powerbrokers, and helped us understand the historical context of present-day politics. He came to the Jersey Journal in 1970 after having worked at the New York Post and Long Island Press. In those 33 years, his institutional knowledge of Hudson County was second to none—with his death, we lost what amounts to the national archives for Hudson County.

Throughout the recurring turbulence of Hudson County politics, Peter Weiss was always a reliable, steady, and, above all, honest force. And with every request for an interview from Peter Weiss, I knew we would embark on a new adventure. As his own paper described, "He savored the scene as a chess player who took delight in anticipating the next moves. For him, though, it was the progression of the game that was most fascinating, not the end result."

Peter Weiss, the Brooklyn native and graduate of Erasmus Hall High School and Long Island University, was a kind, warm, and selfless man, who will be missed dearly. As we all come to terms with this immeasurable loss, our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Margaret Schmidt, loved ones and the entire Jersey Journal family. We will always feel his presence in our midst, and will never forget him and the incredible void he leaves behind.

REMEMBERING CHARLIE BENNETT

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday the nation lost a man who lived his entire life as a public servant. Charles Edward Bennett was a lawyer, a soldier, an author, and a legislator. He will be remembered for representing the views of his constituents, his impeccable voting record, his admirable ethics, and for creating an environmental legacy in Northeast Florida to be treasured by past, present, and future generations.

Charlie Bennett began his public career in the Florida State House of Representatives in 1941. After serving only one term in office, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the infantry during World War II. He courageously

led over 1,000 guerillas in the Philippines and was awarded the Silver Star and the Philippines Legion of Honor for gallantry in action. It was also during his military service that he contracted polio. Throughout his life, Mr. Bennett never let the debilitating disease prevent him from his duties as a lawmaker.

In 1948, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served 22 consecutive terms. Voting over 18,000 times during his career, Charlie Bennett missed only a handful of procedural votes and became known for not missing a single legislative vote between June 4, 1951, and January 3, 1993.

Widely regarded as one of Jacksonville's most trusted public servants, Mr. Bennett was nicknamed "Mr. Clean" for sponsoring legislation to create the House Ethics Committee. Once asked to list the most important legislation he sponsored, Bennett named the making of "In God We Trust" as the U.S. motto and requiring it be included on all coins and currency; creating an ethics code for government service; cosponsorship of the bill enacting the Americans With Disabilities Act; and legislation providing federal assistance toward school construction. Also notable were his roles in creating the Interstate Highway System and the placing of Mayport Naval Station in Jacksonville, Florida.

For his interest in preserving North Florida's natural environment, Charlie Bennett became known as Mr. St. Johns River. As Florida's longest serving congressman and one of the longest serving members of Congress in this nation's history, Mr. Bennett led efforts to clean up and restore the St. Johns River and preserve its cultural and historical significance for future generations. He worked to conserve and enhance wetlands and was instrumental in the creation of the Fort Caroline Memorial and the Timucuan Preserve near Jacksonville. Mr. Bennett was a member of the Jacksonville Historical Society and wrote several books on Northeast Florida's environment and early history.

I am fortunate to have known Charlie Bennett throughout my life. He was a good family friend. Mr. Bennett and my father practiced law together and served in the Army during World War II. It was when my father was stationed in Texas and my mother was about to give birth to my brother that Charlie sent my parents a box of Florida sand. Charlie said he wanted the baby born over Florida soil. That was vintage Charlie Bennett.

Charlie Bennett was well known and respected. He served in Congress with honor and dedication. He set an example we can all recall as we ponder what it means to be a public servant. Mr. Bennett demonstrated his convictions and those values that enable people to place faith in their government. Charlie Bennett was a good man. He was an institution. Charlie Bennett's life is a model for lawmakers everywhere and at every level of government. He will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to convey remorse at having missed two votes

on an issue of great significance to me as a former educator, a vote against vouchers and a vote in favor of our public school system.

Unfortunately, I was called to act in my capacity as the Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to host a series of important candidate debates that will have serious implications on the future and direction of this country.

If I had been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 478, an amendment offered by Representative DAVIS, to H.R. 2765, the fiscal year 2004 appropriations bill for the District of Columbia.

If I had been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 479, an amendment offered by Representative NORTON, to H.R. 2765, the fiscal year 2004 appropriations bill for the District of Columbia.

As responsible members of Congress we must focus on ensuring all students in the District of Columbia, and across the country, have the tools for success. We must provide the necessary resources to ensure that all of our students have access to the proven keys to educational success—smaller class sizes, more parental involvement, up to date materials, and high quality instruction.

We should not give up on our public schools. Especially now just as reform efforts in D.C. are showing results. According to the D.C. Board of Education, recent reforms have resulted in improved test scores for public school students and academic gains in low-performing schools. By contrast, there is no evidence that vouchers will improve achievement for disadvantaged students.

Vouchers will not increase parental choice. Under voucher plans, the choice is in the hands of private schools, which can decide whether or not to participate in a voucher program and can discriminate in admissions.

Finally, when I supported the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act in the last Congress it was with the understanding that as a country we were focused on raising the level of accountability for the schooling of our children. The implementation of voucher programs like this undermines the public accountability component of NCLB. Private schools would not have to account to the public for how they spend tax dollars or require their students to meet the same standards or take the same assessments as public school students.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the understanding of the House and my constituents on this issue.

HONORING MANNY ARVON, SUPERINTENDENT OF BERKELEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Manny Arvon, Superintendent of Berkeley County Schools, West Virginia, in recognition of his commitment to education and talent as an administrator. Mr. Arvon was recently honored by being named West Virginia School Superintendent of the Year for 2003–2004. Mr. Arvon is now under consideration for the National School Superintendent of the Year.

As the son of a school superintendent and a teacher, Mr. Arvon was raised with a spirit of education. From a very early age, he showed great enthusiasm for education while being involved with his parents as they performed their educational endeavors. This spirit has thrived throughout the years in the Arvon family with many of Manny's relatives working in education and his son planning to enter the field in the near future.

Mr. Arvon began a career as an elementary school teacher before moving on to administrative responsibilities first as a principal and then as an assistant superintendent before being named Superintendent of Berkeley County Schools in 1996.

While Mr. Arvon has proven himself to be more than capable of performing the everyday tasks of a superintendent, his leadership abilities also have shone through greatly as Berkeley County has weathered the demands of a rapidly increasing enrollment, infrastructure needs, and budget challenges. Furthermore, Mr. Arvon has made strides in fostering an excitement for education among both his staff and the community.

I commend Mr. Arvon for his outstanding performance as Superintendent of Berkeley County Schools. This award is greatly deserved and only confirms Mr. Arvon's wonderful job performance throughout his thirty-year tenure in education. The students of Berkeley County, West Virginia have benefited greatly from his dedication and innovation. I wish him the best of luck in the national competition and I am proud to recognize him as an example of leadership for educators everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Mr. Manny Arvon, 2003–2004 West Virginia School Superintendent of the Year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRETRIAL DETENTION AND LIFETIME SUPERVISION OF TERRORISTS ACT OF 2003

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Pretrial Detention and Lifetime Supervision of Terrorists Act of 2003.

In a time when our country faces heightened security alerts and continues to battle against those that would harm our citizens, we cannot risk allowing terrorists to be set free while waiting for trial. Terrorists are unlikely to scale back their efforts to attack Americans anytime soon and, likewise, America should not scale back its efforts to fight and eliminate terrorism in all its forms.

This commonsense legislation cracks down on terrorists by creating a presumption to deny the pre-trial release of those that commit terrorist crimes. Terrorists, and those that fund terrorists, are often highly organized. Because of the highly organized nature of most terrorist groups, the pre-trial release of these criminals would create unnecessary and extremely dangerous opportunities for terrorist groups to help these suspects flee the country before they could be brought to justice. This bill adds terrorist offenses to the list of offenses that

create a presumption that the terrorist suspect is a flight risk and would pose a danger to the community if released. This provision will help keep dangerous terrorists where they belong: in prison.

In addition, this legislation gives discretion to judges to impose lifetime supervision of terrorists once they are released from prison. Specifically, the bill would grant the judge this discretion for all terrorist offenses, not just those that result in death or serious injury. This provision will ensure that these who are convicted of terrorist crimes, including cyber terrorists and those that fund terrorist activities, will not be allowed to re-enter society and re-ignite their efforts against the United States. America simply cannot take the chance that terrorists will stop engaging in terrorist activities merely because they have served their time in prison. Giving judges the discretion to supervise these heinous and dangerous criminals after they are released from prison will help ensure the safety of America and her citizens.

I believe that this is a good, commonsense bill that is necessary for the safety of our country. I urge each of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP EARNEST EUGENE BALTIMORE

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Bishop Earnest Eugene Baltimore of Ranson, West Virginia. Bishop Baltimore passed away in 1999 after serving as senior pastor of King's Apostle Holiness Church of God for 51 years. On August 17, 2003, Bishop Baltimore's achievements were recognized through the establishment of a scholarship fund in his honor and the placing of a memorial plaque at Lancaster Circle in Ranson.

Bishop Baltimore's accomplishments and dedication to the community are countless. Many remember him as the former President of the Jefferson County NAACP; President of the South Jefferson Ministerial Association, Vice President of the School of Hope, and Councilman and Member of the Sanitation and Finance Committees for the City of Ranson. He also served as a Board Member for the United Givers Fund and Free Our Citizens of Unhealthy Substance Abuse (FOCUS). Bishop Baltimore was also an active Board Member of the Jefferson County Memorial Park.

As a man of devout faith, Bishop Baltimore preached every Sunday and presided over hundreds of weddings, funerals, revivals, and baptisms in West Virginia and around the country. He also provided local radio ministering during Sunday worship service and traveled and ministered extensively across the United States and throughout the World.

In honor of Bishop Baltimore's longstanding commitment to his community, I ask my friends in West Virginia and my colleagues here in Congress to join me in remembering the great accomplishments of Bishop E.E. Baltimore.